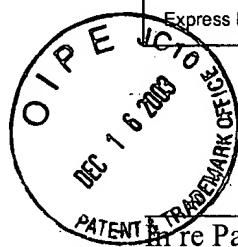


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Dated: _____

Docket No.: 09634/000L279-US0
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Shiro Iwasaki, et al.

Application No.: 09/891,944

Confirmation No.:

Filed: June 26, 2001

Art Unit: 2615

For: AUTOMATIC LEVEL CONTROL FOR
CHANGING AUDIO MODE OF DIGITAL
VIDEO RECORDING APPARATUS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

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DEC 22 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2600

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO/SB/08 and copies of the documents listed thereon.

In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested that each document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is not repeated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08) be given thorough consideration and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing Form PTO/SB/08 next to the document. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

Documents JP 5-003441 and JP 7-115605 are not in the English language. In accordance with 1.98(c), Applicant states:

The requirement for concise explanation of relevance of documents JP 5-003441 and JP 7-115605 are satisfied by the attached translation of the abstract (see MPEP § 609 A(3)(x)).

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

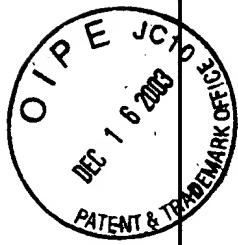
It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed documents.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency of up to \$300.00 or credit any excess in this fee to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Dated: December 16, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Application No. (if known): 09/891,944

Attorney Docket No.: 09634/000L279-US0

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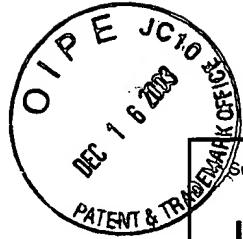
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	09/891,944
				Filing Date	June 26, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Shiro Iwasaki
				Art Unit	2615
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	Technology Center 2600 09634/000L279-US0

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
BA	EP-0 371 717-B1	06-06-1990	Murakami		
BB	JP-5-003441-A1	01-08-1993	Yoji		X
BC	JP-7-115605-A1	05-02-1995	Yoneda		X

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			

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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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